

**NEW**



# BERNAL JOURNAL

DECEMBER-JANUARY 1987-88



Volume 24, No. 4

## Not just another Monday...

By Amy Love

October 5 was just like any other Monday for Quintin Rodriguez: school, dinner at home, and then drop-in at St. Kevin's. As always, Quintin and his friends met on the way to drop-in, skateboarding down the hill as they laughed and talked.

But something went wrong.

Quintin had skated down Gates Street many times without injury (no one ever counts the knees and hands that are scraped every day). This time was different; he lost control of his board. His friends saw him try to tap-stop the board. When they looked again, Quintin was lying in the street unconscious, going into convulsions from the impact of his head on the pavement.

Like 81,067 others last year, Quintin was one of those skateboarders hurt badly enough to require emergency room treatment. The lucky ones got off with broken arms and legs, but the others suffered severe head injury or died. They died or had their lives dramatically altered because they practiced their sport on the street without adequate safety gear. Or because there was no place to skate but the street. Or because helmets and pads were expensive and no one required them.

(continued on page 6)



## PG and E lights up our lives!

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has donated \$2500 to help the Bernal Journal Youth Project. Their confidence in the project, the Community Foundation, and the Bernal Heights neighborhood is very much appreciated. Special thanks to DeDe Hapner, Patty Prado, and Owen Davis for their help and support. What a terrific Christmas present!



Head Start children, parents, teachers, and supporters demonstrate in front of the federal ACYF offices in United Nations Plaza on November 5.

## Close Call for Head Start

by Barbara Bagot and Amy Love

The San Francisco Head Start Program came very close to being shut down on December 1, nearly cutting off childcare, education and other social services for 900 low income families, 40 in Bernal Heights alone. However, at the eleventh hour, the action was postponed for a month, still leaving the possibility of a very unhappy New Year.

These families are victims of a complicated bureaucratic web, woven by federal regulations and alleged administrative incompetence. The parties involved include:

♦ ACYF—(Administration for Children, Youth and Families) department of the federal government charged with administering funds for San Francisco Head Start

♦ CHRI—(California Human Resources, Inc.) non-profit "contract agency" which manages Head Start; funded by and under contract to ACYF

♦ Policy Council—body of community people, at least 50% parents; must approve CHRI contract with ACYF

The parents' Policy Council has long complained that CHRI has mismanaged Head Start. They want ACYF to find a suitable replacement without closing the doors for three to

six months—the time they say is needed to do the search. In addition to impacting the families, a closure would cause hundreds of Head Start employees and contractors to be out of work, and the program would risk losing the affordable licensed childcare centers that are rented month to month. The parents suggest using an interim contract agency to bridge this gap.

"The parents were just notified today (November 30) about the extension," says Elisa Miranda, Director of Mission Head Start. "We

(continued on page 11)

## Inside...



Tribute to Grandma Jeanne...see Page 5

# NEW BERNAL JOURNAL

515 Cortland Avenue,  
(phone 648-0330).

The *New Bernal Journal* is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues, and events. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Community Foundation.

The next meeting of the *New Bernal Journal* Advisory Board is January 11.

**DEADLINE** for articles and photos for the February issue is: **JANUARY 1**

All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, or arrangements can be made to enter them directly into the computer. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or space.

## **New Bernal Journal Staff/Volunteers:**

**Managing Editor:** Barbara Bagot

**Youth Page Editor:** Monifa Quarels

**Production Manager:** Kay Daly

**Production Crew:** Carlos Alcalá, Bob Dutra, Peter Richardson

**Copy Editing:** Bonnie Monte, Judy Drummond

**Advertising:** Karen Rivas, Sister Janet Simons

**Data Processing:** Tasha Inouchi, Judy Drummond, Tra-C Phillips, Buck Bagot, John White

**Artwork:** Peter Richardson, Spain Rodriguez, Carlos Alcalá

**Creative Writing Editor:** Jessie Alvarez

**Distribution:** Diane Ross, Steve Antonaros, and a cast of hundreds!

## **New Bernal Journal Advisory Board:**

Karen Rivas, Jessie Alvarez, Tom Fell, Monifa Quarels, Cathy Bremer, Paulette Lincoln, Jerry Powell, Peggy Turnipseed, Nicole Myers, Jackie Blanco, Lisa Steadman, Bill Sorro, Donald Pipkins, Warren Hinkle

**Special thanks to** Sister Janet, Fred, Tra-C, Judy D, Mary Foy, Charlie-Nancy-Bill-Johnnie Lynn at Garret, Steverino, Buckaroo, our faithful advertisers, and all of our talented writers!

**Advertising: 648-0330**

Contact the *New BJ* office for display ad rates. Classifieds are 10 cents per word, minimum \$3.00. Payment due with submission of copy.

The *New Bernal Journal* is printed by Garret Press, a union shop.



## Mail Box

Dear Editor,

Once in a while I dabble in poetry, as I have since the age of nine. I thought you might enjoy the enclosed poem, with Winter just around the corner. <ED: See Poetry Section>

Last week I joined the Bernal Senior Program and had a delightful afternoon, including lunch! That evening I "stuck my nose" in your October issue of the *New Bernal Journal* while relaxing at home. I found it quite informative, with a variety of articles to catch many a reader's interest. I really do not see how anyone can find time to be lonely with the *New Bernal Journal* listing so many projects that one may participate in. Or just for walking through the doors of the Neighborhood Center, one may find warmth and comfort with a new found friend.

Sincerely,  
Hildegard Corona



Who are these *Eggheads*? Struttin' their stuff to thank Egghead Discount Software for helping the Bernal Journal Youth Project: (left to right) Trá-C Phillips, Patty Salazar, Barbara Bagot, and new staff member Peter Richardson, a volunteer who came to us through the *Learning through Serving* program.

## Thank you to our October distributors!!

Bill Sorro	Rick Palos	Lee Egger
Daniel Raskin	Marie Noele	Phoebe McAfee
Judith Eastwood	Andrea Burhoe	Richard VanKooy
Cathy Bremer	Molly Bagdorf	Carlos Alcalá
Claudia Arenas	Jessie Alvarez	Karen Rivas
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Tina Cervin	Tim Molinare	Frenchie Quarels
Jon Katz	Linda Aurichio	Karen Hanson
Liz Walker	Terry Milne	Buck Bagot
Sister Janet Simons	East Slope folks	Mike Noon
	(need your names!)	

Dear Editor,

Bravo to the *New Bernal Journal* for its efforts and success in actually involving local youth the newspaper and creating a forum for pertinent issues. There appear to be too few opportunities in the city available for teens to both gain and utilize a variety of skills.

Participation in the Bernal Journal Youth Project is a great vehicle to combat a prevailing sense of complacency and hopelessness that has no age limit. In a neighborhood like Bernal Heights, the *Journal* is an effective way to nurture and provide outlets for the variety of talents among us. The profile of Monifa Quarrels highlights what happens when someone gets off their thing to swing.

And many more Bravos to the unknown and up and coming.

Thanks,  
Amy Trachtenberg  
Banks Street

## Editor's Update

Just to bring you up to date on some items from past issues, and fill you in on some new happenings on the hill...

The Mayor's In-School Youth Program (MISY) has not been reinstated, and—despite demonstrations by angry agencies and young people on November 23 at City Hall—the future looks dim for the terrific youth employment program. This hurts the young people, and the agencies and corporations where would be working (including the Bernal Journal Youth Project!). Please let the Mayor and Board of Supervisors know what a loss this is for all of us—call or write them with your concerns.

The Standard Brands Paint Store is almost finished! Hopefully, it will open by the end of January. Soon thereafter, the Coleridge Park Homes development will begin (that's the affordable senior housing, mini-park, and parking developed by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation). Exciting!!!

Hey! I'm still here, as volunteer Editor, even though I've returned to my job at Wells Fargo Bank—my Social Service Leave having ended November 15. We are looking for a part-time Project Coordinator to function as co-editor and work with the young people during after school hours; experience in journalism, youth training, community work is needed. Please call me at 648-2190, or Fred at 648-0330 for a copy of the job announcement. (Note: You gotta have heart for this position—it is not a high-paying job).

Hooray for our two terrific librarians, Cathy Bremer and Vivian Sykes! They have been honored with the 1987 Managerial Excellence Award by the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee. Our Bernal Library is really hoppin'! On Veterans Day, a crowd gathered outside for Family Storytime, not realizing the library was closed for the holiday; they then packed into Four Star Video for some alternate entertainment...We also welcome Cathy to the Bernal Journal Advisory Board.

A BIG BERNAL THANK YOU to Dexter Waugh of the *San Francisco Examiner* for his terrific article on the Bernal Journal Youth Project! Dexter said that he really enjoyed doing the story—so much so that he has agreed to act as special consultant to our budding young writers!

That's it for 1987, neighbors. Thanks to all the folks who are working so hard to make the *New Bernal Journal*, and the Bernal Journal Youth Project, such a success. Did you know that over 100 neighbors contributed to the October issue? Now that's a community newspaper! Our advertisers are so very special—they not only support the paper and the young people, but they also offer great products and services! Please patronize them, and tell them that you saw their ad in the *New Bernal Journal*. And last, but definitely not least, our corporate buddies: Wells Fargo Bank, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Safeway, and Egghead Discount Software.

Seasons Greetings to all!

Dia Harvey	June Brevdy	Theo Johnson
Beverly Bagdorf	Ken Quarels	Terrell Johnson
Bob Dutra	Annette Luckett	Chris Harvey
Dolores Brady		

...and many more who forgot to sign in!

**Deadline for February issue is January 1!**



The staff and volunteers of the *New Bernal Journal* wish everyone a happy holiday season, and a great '88! Let's all work for peace in the new year.



We are pleased to welcome Spain Rodriguez to our growing family of volunteers. Spain, renowned underground cartoonist and great artist of our time, has created our *Mail Box* logo. Can you tell what part of Bernal Heights it depicts?

# The Little Rock Connection

## Bernal Profiles

by Buck Bagot

*There must be something in the water back there in Little Rock, Arkansas—to have produced these two wise and dedicated women. And we in Bernal are the beneficiaries!*

### OLIVIA DILDY

Olivia was born to a deeply religious family in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1922. Her father was a deacon in their church. He gave her a strong sense of caring for her community, and a belief in the need to work to better it. It was love that brought Olivia here: a marriage proposal from a San Franciscan. She lived at 1155 Palou for 22 years and in 1971 moved to Holly Court (the public housing project located on Holly Park Circle between Highland and Appleton). She has one daughter.

Olivia joined the tenant association to help improve the neighborhood. She was inspired to be more active after James Clay was selected as the head of the San Francisco Housing Authority. She felt that conditions in Holly Court were "going steadily downhill." The housing needed many improvements, especially better maintenance—and tenants needed more responsiveness from the Housing Authority. She became President of the Tenants Association in 1985. Why didn't she just let somebody else do it? Why did she get so involved? "Because I live here. I wanted it kept up. I was interested in my own well-being, and that of everyone else here. I wanted to live in a nice place, and wanted it nice for everyone else too. I feel like I'm banging my head against the wall at times, but I'll keep working."

Olivia began to attend meeting of the citywide Public Housing Tenants Association (PHTA). Why? Because advice and help from the PHTA strengthened the Holly Court Tenant Association. Her hard work led to her election as Vice President of the PHTA, working with President Mary Jo Smith. In October, Georgia attended the meeting of the National Tenant Organization in New Orleans. She and public housing tenant leaders from all over the country fought for better conditions nationwide.

Olivia has been working hard for the election of Assemblyman Art Agnos as Mayor of San Francisco. She believes that James Clay has done an awful job, and that he should be replaced. Agnos seems to agree with her assessment of Clay. Agnos's chief of staff, Claude Eberhardt, said that he believes that Clay would not remain as head of the Housing Authority if Agnos were elected mayor.



Democratic Party Activist Georgia Willette (left) and Olivia Dildy, President of the Holy Court Tenants Association

### GEORGIA WILLETTE

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Georgia Willette has been in San Francisco for ten years. She was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on a date she prefers to not reveal. She came to San Francisco on the invitation of her sister, liked it, and stayed. She has raised three children.

Georgia has a long history of activism in community and political efforts. She first was active in her church and began singing gospel music when she was five years old. She's still singing, with the Willette Sisters, and as a member of the Jerusalem Church of God in Christ, at 901 Divisadero in San Francisco. She became politically active in Chicago, where she was a precinct captain in Mayor Daly's organization on the Southeast Side. She remembers working with the Chicago's current and first black mayor, Harold Washington, when he was a precinct leader on the West side of Chicago. "Harold Washington is a beautiful man, a true man of his word. he's a great improvement."

Soon after her arrival here, Georgia was recruited to Democratic Party political organizing by Fred Ross, one of the architects of the United Farm Workers' Union. Ross involved her in Dianne Feinstein's first race for Mayor. Since then, she's been a precinct leader in the campaign to defeat the recall of Mayor Feinstein, in the elections of Congresspersons Phil and Sala Burton, and in the election of Nancy Pelosi to Congress from our district. Currently, she's a precinct worker for the Art Agnos for Mayor campaign on Bernal Heights.

"My auntie got me involved in politics, and I've always worked to improve my community. She was a judge—one of the first black woman judges in Chicago. I come from a family of leaders. My father—Prophet M.D. Willette—was a leader, and a preacher. He was the first black radio preacher in Little Rock, in 1942."

(continued on page 10)

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# Elsie Street Saga Continues

by Charles Bolton

In October, the Bonview Elsie Virginia Winfield and Prospect (BEVWAP) Neighbors met with representatives of the San Francisco Planning and Public Works Departments to learn what the city was going to do to insure that the construction of some 28 new homes on Elsie Street would not destroy the quality of life for existing residents both on Elsie and adjacent streets.

A large delegation of City representatives came to the meeting. Barbara Sahm, City Planning Environmental Review Officer; Bob Passmore, City Dept. of Public Works; and Robert Kelly, Superintendent, Bureau of Building Inspection. Supervisor Bill Maher was also in attendance in the dual capacity of neighbor and supportive Supervisor. The Block Club members were concerned about several issues. Issues raised included:

- Identifying city procedures for reducing the destruction of views and blocking the light of adjacent neighbors by new Elsie Street construction.

- Reduction of construction nuisances such as blockage of traffic, loss of parking space, noise, dust, caused by new construction. Residents wanted to know how many construction and excavation sites should be allowed at one time.

- Concern over soil stability of the vacant lots and existing homes adjacent to building sites. Currently, two lots at the bottom of Elsie Street have been dug out and a 30 foot deep pit left open since last Spring. With the onset of the first rains, there has been some erosion of soil from adjacent lots into the pit. Residents are concerned that further delays from the builder may result in further erosion and possible damage to the foundations of adjacent houses. Residents are also concerned that children and pets playing in the general vicinity of these "pits" could fall and be hurt.

- It was questioned whether or not existing sewer lines could handle 30 new homes.

The meeting resulted in an agreement between the City officials and BEVWAP Neighbors that City Planning would attempt to develop a set of ground rules for future construction along Elsie Street that would limit the number of new homes that could be built simultaneously and would require builders to undertake special procedures to limit street closings and generally behave in a courteous way with residents. The Bureau of Building Inspection agreed to investigate the delay

in completing the work in the "pit" and the possible damage that could be caused if the foundations are not completed before the onset of the rainy season. City officials also agreed to investigate the sewerage line capacity problem and report back to the group.

It was also agreed to jointly explore the possibility of shifting Elsie Street parking to the West side of the street. This would increase available parking spaces because there are older houses without driveways on that side. This could add 8 to 12 new parking spaces.

In addition, the group agreed to support Supervisor Maher's legislation to downzone and to impose a 30 foot height limit and a 2000 sq. ft. space requirement on new construction on Bernal Heights.

If you have any questions or concerns about the work of the BEVWAP Neighbors, call Charles Bolton at 647-8861 or Barbara Dwyer at 821-2878.

The East Slope Preservation Committee invites East Slope neighbors to an election meeting of the Design Review Board. Monday, December 14, 7 p.m. Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center 515 Cortland Avenue

**pancake breakfast \$3.00**

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## Open Space Update

by Lisa Steadman

Neighbors who attended the October meeting of the Open Space Committee were able to meet with Supervisor Bill Maher and discuss the terms and implications of legislation he is introducing to limit the size of new construction in Bernal Heights. <ED: See Supe du Jour>

The Santa Marina Garden is in full swing! Perhaps you have seen the new fence and gate while passing Prospect Street. You can join in the fun almost any Saturday just by showing up. The next phase of work will include terracing the land, enriching the soil, and preparing it for planting. Call S.L.U.G., 468-0110, for more details. Thanks to the volunteers from the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) for their help in clearing the weeds and debris from vacant lots and along Bernal Heights Boulevard. Removing the seedheads of the fennel, wild radish, and broom that threaten to dominate the hill will make it easier for the wildflowers and grasses to flourish, and make the hill a nicer place to walk.

One of the lots they cleared is the Powhattan Street easement where neighbors are planning trail improvements, landscaping, and terracing. Our last meeting was very productive, yielding a drawing that incorporates everyone's ideas and a tentative offer of help from the San Francisco Conservation Corps. We hope that working with the Corps on this project will clear the path, so to speak, for us to collaborate on a more ambitious project: the Mayflower Peace Garden. While this is only a vision, we will need to begin planning soon if we hope to have construction begin on it in 1989. Several neighborhoods have expressed an interest in it, but much more energy is needed. If you have been looking for a constructive way to meet your neighbors or have been unable to find your niche in community affairs, this project may be just right for you! Call the Committee or come to our next meeting. Check the Neighborhood Center Calendar for the date.

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# A Chance to Smile

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## Tribute to Jeanne Hamer

by Barbara Bagot

I've never written an obituary before. I'd really rather not. Let's call it a tribute, a remembrance, a chance—not to cry—but to smile and laugh at the memories of the Grand Old Lady of the Hill, Jeanne Hamer.

Lee Egger, an old-time Bernal activist herself, organized an intimate neighborhood tribute to Jeanne in a small room off to the side at Driscoll's Chapel on the day of her funeral. Lee, of course, led us in prayer, and some of the neighbors who had known and loved and fought with and celebrated with Jeanne over the years sat and reminisced with her daughter Charlene.

It was hard tracking down all the old Northwest Bernal Block Club folks: many had moved away and were with us in spirit. Roger—Borgenicht is now in Salt Lake City. Penny Polatsch must be in New York. Katy Korzelius has moved to LA. Michael Powers is somewhere sailing, cooking, or both. Ann Kyle did come over from Berkeley. And some of us remain in Bernal: Margaret and Bob Randolph, Marc Frauenfelder and Claudia Viek, Buck Bagot, Sedalia Brown, Linda Canaga and Earl Chase, Brian McCaffrey, Miley Holman, Charles Bolton, Michael Nolan.

Marc spoke about what a great neighbor Jeanne was—and what an experience to live on the same block as the Hamer clan! Margaret remembered the earliest days of the Community Foundation, when the "office" was in Jeanne's living room. Jeanne and Charlene were both charter members of the Board, along with Sedalia, Ann, Miley, Margaret, and me. Jeanne was the first BHCF President. Buck, uncharacteristically, didn't say much. Off and on over the years, I felt he'd actually become a



LABOR OF LOVE: Jeanne joins her neighbors to build the Esmeralda Mini-Park in 1979.

member of the Hamer family! He and Jeanne were very close—despite being two generations apart, they were truly good friends.

I dug out some old Chronicle and Examiner headlines from the Elsie Street struggle over ten years ago: "Taking a Stand in Bernal Heights," "Community Control Plan: Building to Suit Neighbors," "City Gives Elsie Street to the People," "Rebels win right to plan their neighborhood," and—as Charlene reminded us—Jeanne's favorite, the Examiner editorial "Secessionists on Bernal Heights." Jeanne was in the center of all that controversy, all that

energy, pulling together a diverse group of neighbors—old-timers and newcomers, young and old, black, white, and brown—pulling us together to pound our collective fist on the desks at City Hall and demand a voice in the development of our neighborhood. It was then that we laid the groundwork for neighborhood building-review boards, community design studies, the Community Foundation.

Jeanne was an inspiration to us then, and she will continue to be. When we see the Neighborhood Center, when we see a safely developed Elsie Street, when we pass by the Holladay Homes, when the seniors start moving into the Coleridge Park Homes, and as we continue to fight to keep Bernal a place that all people can afford to live in, we should see the beautiful, smiling face of Jeanne Hamer, our soul and inspiration. (Hey, Jeanne—I finally spelled your name right, with two n's!).

## Bernal Neighbors for Art Agnos



BERNAL PRECINCT CAPTAINS & HELPERS FOR THE ART AGNOS FOR MAYOR CAMPAIGN. Front row (left to right): Jerry Powell, Georgia Willette, Carlos Melendez, Russel Robles, Amy Trachtenberg, Buck Bagot, Veronica Sanchez (Agnos organizer), Sylvia Yee, Patty Bartlett, Helen Bean, Claudia Viek; back row: Clay Young, Charles Bolton, Claudine Huey, Carol Driezen, Rich Waller, Gerald Whitehead, Carren Kirkland, Barbara Bagot, Larry Majors, Polly Marshall, Mary Johnson, Ellen Schaeffer, Carlos Alcalá, Flo Kelley, Audrey Washington, Amy Love, and Olivia Dildy; (missing: Don Simon, Paul Wessel, Brian McCaffrey, Janis Brewer, Martha Knutson, Alfredo Rodriguez)

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# Better safe than...

By Amy Love

The 81,067 serious skateboard injuries reported in 1986 is more than twice the 37,326 reported in 1985. Drucilla Besley of the Consumer Product Safety Commission believes this is because of the current vogue for the sport. "Skateboarding has wide swings in popularity, and the number of injuries corresponds directly to the number of participants," she said from her office in Bethesda, Maryland.

When the sport was at its height a few years ago, some of entrepreneurs cashed in on the fad by opening up parks. "They provided a safe environment for skaters, and required the use of helmets, knee pads and gloves," remembered Mike DeLucca, manager of Balboa Cyclery, a bike shop that also sells skateboard supplies.

"But the parks closed. You've got a new group now--the skate punks--who can't be bothered with helmets, who think you're trying to rip them off if you recommend helmets." DeLucca has more success with younger children. "Their parents come in to buy the boards and will listen to our recommendations. When the parents have spent their money on safety equipment, they also make sure the equipment is used."

Just buying a helmet is not enough. DeLucca cautions against most skateboard helmets, which are merely plastic shells lined with foam. He suggest buying one certified to meet the standards of ANSI or SNEL (regulatory agencies), which may mean selecting a cycling helmet.

Mike Johnson of Concrete Jungle thinks the better-quality skateboard helmets are sufficient, even if they aren't certified, and at \$39, they're a lot cheaper than cycling helmets. "I always say, 'A ten-dollar helmet for a ten-dollar head.' That goes for pads, too." Johnson, 21 skates competitively and, like most skaters, doesn't want to be told what to do. "That's the point of skating: the freedom." He also sees the solution in the return of the skate park, this time as a public recreation center. "The most fun I ever had was at a public park in Vancouver. They required helmets and pads, but it was okay--it wasn't wimpy like the one in Benicia.

"The little park we have here--The Dish in Hunter's Point--is fun, too, but I don't go there anymore." Over the years the area is reputed to have been taken over by drug dealers and muggers. "There are places for football and baseball, but nothing for kids that aren't into the jock mentality. That's why skaters are out on the street."

If a skate park is developed, it will be due to the efforts of David Miles, founder and head of the Golden Gate Park Skate Patrol. He holds fund-raising skateboard contests and has already secured \$2.2 million in liability insurance through the Boy Scouts of America. "In our society, we seem to solve things by banning them the first time there's an accident, the first time there's a problem," said Miles, who set three world records roller-skating to Los Angeles for the Hunger Project in 1980. "I look at this as an opportunity not to ban things, but to look for a way for everybody to be happy."

His contests and schoolyard demonstrations feature top skaters using protective gear and safe skating techniques, thus acting as role models. "You want kids to wear helmets, but they want to do what they want to do." Happily, he reports more skaters than ever are wearing helmets in Golden Gate Park. "Some say, 'It's not cool to wear a helmet.' I tell them, 'So what? Who cares?'"



## Skateboarding: Can it be safe *and* fun?

by Monifa Quarels

Some San Franciscans view skateboarding as a dangerous sport want it outlawed in the city. That's not what 12-year-old Kenyatte Quarels thinks. He says it's fun and it keeps you out of trouble. "I'd rather be skateboarding than dealing dope."

I think it all boils down to safety. Protective gear is available but it's quite expensive and some kids can't afford to buy these things. A decent helmet can cost up to \$40. "I wear knee pads and chin guards, Kenyatte says, but I don't think I need a helmet. They cost too much anyway."

Skateboarding in Golden Gate Park has become a main tourist attraction. They call it freestyling, in which many tricks and turns are done on the skateboard. Safety gear is stressed but not required in the park. "We're out there every Sunday to show others our stuff,"

I think safety helmets should be cheaper so that kids can afford them. They don't have to ban skateboarding, just enforce safety rules and give the kids a safer place to skateboard. If this will keep the kids out of trouble, why not?

## SAFETY TIPS

There's a certain amount of risk inherent in skateboarding, as in all sports. The guidelines below are designed to eliminate unnecessary risks and reduce the severity of any injury that might occur:

**Have quality equipment in good working order.** A \$49 board from a toy store is just that--a toy for a seven-year-old just starting to skate. Expect to pay \$100 or more for a good board.

**Use top-rated protective gear.** If you won't wear a helmet all the time, at least wear one on ramps or when doing tricks. Use wrist guards and knee pads all the time; add gloves and elbow pads if you're doing tricks or going very fast.

**Stay off the street at night.** Perception is reduced for you and for drivers.

**Stay in control.** Alcohol and drugs don't mix with driving, cycling, or skating. Skaters don't have a bigger drug or alcohol problem than anyone else; you're just more vulnerable.

—Amy Love

NOT JUST... (Continued from page 1)

Now 81,067 may seem like only a few injuries compared with the number of skateboarders, and \$120 may seem an outrageous waste for an ANSI-approved helmet. This whole article may seem like the over-cautious nagging of an old lady who just doesn't understand the life of a skater.

In the sixties, Jan and Dean sang "Sidewalk Surfing" and my brothers and I careened down Southern California streets much steeper than Gates Street. I remember the exhilarating speed, the cool wind surrounding me, the soft landings on squishy iceplant. I also remember the blood when my bare feet were ripped open on sprinkler heads, and the kids who were killed when they ran into cars.

We need to provide a safe place for skaters, away from cars and uneven pavement, where people will gladly wear protective gear in exchange for the thrills of a dish and some ramps. Until we do, skaters will have to protect themselves.

Helmets are even less cool than knee pads and gloves, but then brains are a lot more valuable than skin. If you're going to ride a skateboard, find a safe place and use protective gear; it's worth it.

You could ask Quintin what he thinks, but he wouldn't be able to answer you.

He's still in a coma.

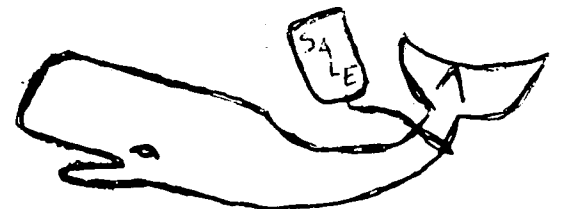
## It's goin' on at SKY...

All St. Kevin's Youth Monday night meetings are in the Old Hall on Ellsworth from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Monday, December 7:	Drop in.
Monday, December 14:	Discussion on racial prejudice.
Monday, December 21:	Drop in: carolling, Kris Kringle gift exchange.
Monday, December 28:	Drop in.
Monday, January 4:	Drop in.
Monday, January 11:	Discussion. Topic to be announced.
Monday, January 18:	Drop in.
Monday, January 25:	Drop in.

**NEXT DANCE:** Saturday, December 26, 8 pm till midnight. St. Kevin's Hall. Doors close at 10.

For more information, contact any core member: Alex Torres, 285-0763; Amy Love, 641-1540; Angela Borvice, 285-9479; Diane Alvarez, 824-1909; Annie and Roark O'Neill, 824-0312; Pat Lynch, 824-9696; Steve Foy, 648-4913.



## WHALE OF A SALE

Paul Revere School is having a HOLIDAY WHALE OF A SALE on Friday, December 11 from 10:30 to 1:00 p.m. This special event will help raise funds for Project Ocean activities to highlight marine science and learn more about the ocean's resources. The entire school is studying with the Oceanic Society and will have Oceans Week in March, right before Spring vacation. Please donate items to be sold, help staff the sale, or come find some treasures. Paul Revere School is located at 555 Tompkins St., corner Banks and Tompkins.



## Toys for Bernal Tots

Got some toys that you're "recycling" this Christmas? Jessie Alvarez is collecting toys for use at the Bernal State Preschool. Please drop them by Goddess Faire at 511 Cortland. Thank you!

Roving reporter Monifa Quarels asks:

## How would you describe your ideal Christmas?



"Presents, gifts, peace, and unity."  
-Nick Macaluso-



"Family get-togethers."  
-Lawrence Yaghmour-



"A time of birth...Christ"  
-Toni Vargas-



"A time for sharing and giving."  
-Elizabeth O'Neal-

"Being with my boyfriend."  
-Nikki Patterson-

"Spending it with my boyfriend and family."  
-Kaisia Thomas-

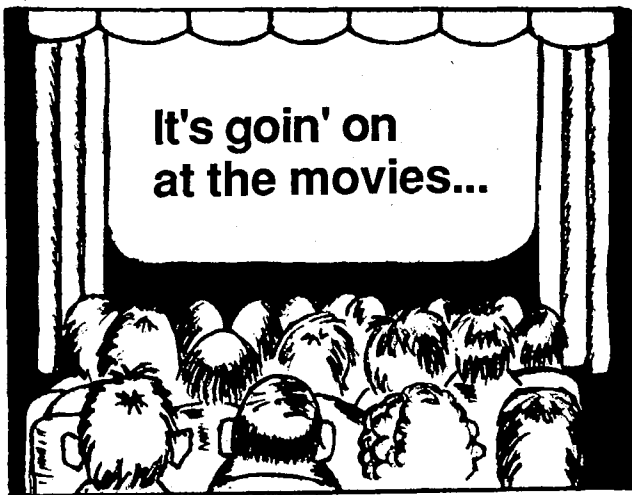
"Going to a relative's house and being together."  
-Kenyatte Quarels-



"Happiness and love."  
-Julie Gordon-



"A white Christmas with my grandmother in Texas."  
-Lani Pittman-



by Don Gobble

## Hello Again

Shelley Long gives the performance of her career in *Hello Again*. She plays Lucy Chadman, an unhappy mother of one who hasn't found her niche in life yet. Her best friend, played to the hilt by Sela Ward, has everything except Long's husband, (Corbin Bernsen of television's *LA Law*) Long's eccentric sister Zelda, played by Judith Ivey, gives her the same advice each time it's asked: "Live it up!"

While visiting her sister, Lucy chokes on a chicken ball. The doctors try everything, but she dies. Zelda buys an old magic book and miraculously succeeds to bring back Lucy back from the dead.

But the problem is that one year has passed. She goes to the playground where she did volunteer work and finds it demolished. She goes home and finds another family living there. She tracks her husband down to the penthouse of the freshest condominium in New York—she also finds her husband in bed with her best friend. I won't give away the ending to this hysterical comedy but it's worth checking out!

Grade B+

## Fatal Beauty

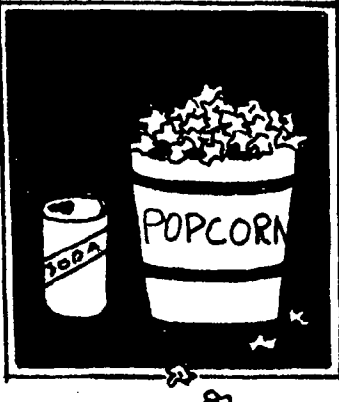
*Fatal Beauty* is one of Whoopi Goldberg's best movies. She plays a private investigator who goes undercover as a prostitute to uncover a cocaine-smuggling ring headed by a flamboyant transvestite. Before she can make the bust she spots a hooker-friend of hers in trouble so she postpones the bust and saves her friend. After her grand display of heroics,

Whoopi loses the criminal and prepares to face the Sergeant. He gives her a quick, forgettable lecture and she ponders how she's going to nab her transvestite friend.

Mr. Transvestite is murdered by a couple of thugs working for Sam Elliot (*Mask*), a very wealthy crime boss who, upon meeting Whoopi, falls in love. The cocaine that Elliot "inherited" is given the name Fatal Beauty because anyone who snorts some instantly dies. Whoopi desperately tries to find every packet of Fatal Beauty before any more people needlessly die. When a teen-age friend of someone Whoopi put in jail threatens her with a switchblade, she quickly puts him in his place and they become friends. The next day, the kid (John P. Ryan) tells Whoopi to get to his house immediately because some of his friends just finished consuming Fatal Beauty. Whoopi discovers his friends dead and follows a complicated trail to the source of the lethal drug.

The ending is fantastic and if you like Ms. Goldberg and entertaining action movies, *Fatal Beauty* is a must!

Grade B+



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## A Different World for Lisa Bonet

by Trá-C Phillips

Lisa Bonet is a 19-year-old, born and raised in L.A. After establishing herself as Denise Huxtable on "The Cosby Show", she played a sexy voodoo princess in her first movie *Angel Hearts*. Now Lisa is starring in her own show, "A Different World", which means commuting between New York and L.A! When Lisa is in N.Y., she keeps herself healthy by running four to six miles in Central Park and when in L.A., works out in gyms. She keeps her body in balance by skipping junk food and eats what she calls "raw" food—vegetables, fresh fruit, and sushi (that's raw fish!). Lisa claims she was unattractive (ugly) from first grade until she was 13, and even though her appearance improved, she didn't have a date all through high school! Lisa and her character, Denise, share her outrageous wardrobe—although Lisa prefers the same Levi's and hiking boots most days. Lisa's parents divorced when she was young, so she never knew her father. Her mother is white, which Lisa says made her childhood miserable and confusing. People made fun of her, she didn't like her lips, and hated being herself. Now Lisa's character is more outgoing, family and school-oriented, more conservative, nicer, and better behaved. Lisa's plans are to act for about 10 years, and she'd like to write and direct TV, film, and theater. Her goal is to travel all over the world and make Spain her home.

# 8 GUADALUPE, QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS

## GUADALUPE, QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS

by Amy Love

With mariachi music, folk dances, and processions, the descendants of conquistadores, Aztecs, and Mayans will this month celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Americas. In Bernal Heights—as well as in Mexico and Central America—they will all pay homage to the lady who appeared to a poor Aztec peasant, uniting his culture with that of Spain.

### THE STORY OF GUADALUPE

On December 10, 1531, the singing of canaries surprised Juan Diego as he walked through the hills to church in what is now Mexico City. Following their music, he found a woman, her radiance bathing the rocky grotto in light.

"I am the ever virgin, holy Mary, Mother of God," she said. "I wish a temple to be built here so that I can give my motherly love and protection to you and to all who live in this land and to all who believe in me." She asked him to tell the bishop of her wish.

Juan Diego did as told, but had to report back his failure. Don Fray Juan de Zumárraga, Bishop of Mexico, had not had much time for a native of the lowest class. Juan Diego thought that Mary should send a more qualified messenger, but, like a mother, she sent him back to complete his task.

This time the bishop listened, but demanded proof. When told of this, Mary instructed Juan Diego to return the next day.

But Juan Diego could not come back—his uncle was near death, in need of care. Two days later, Juan Diego once more headed toward the bishop, this time to secure the last rites for his uncle. He guiltily avoided the lady, taking a different path, but was again startled by her apparition.

Assuring him that his uncle was well, she told Juan Diego to pick flowers on the other side of the hill. On a rocky slope where nothing grew, he found an abundance of blossoms. Filling his istle cloak with them, he returned to Mary.

She took a few blossoms, then put them back saying, "Go. This is your sign."

After hours of waiting, Juan Diego was finally ushered in to the bishop's office. As he untied the cloak to present the flowers, an image began to form on the crude fiber, a picture of Mary wrapped in a star-covered mantle, eclipsing the sun. She stood on the moon, which was itself help up by an angel, a traditional cherub except for its red, white, and blue eagle feathers.

The next morning Juan Diego brought the bishop home, where they found the uncle fully recovered. Juan Bernardino told how a lady had come and healed him, identifying herself as *Tlecuahtlacuēah*, "the one who comes flying from the light like the eagle from the fire."

Don Fray Juan could not pronounce the Aztec name, nor *Tequantlanopeuh*, the name the lady had given to the nephew. The bishop chose to call her Guadalupe after the black Madonna of Spain, in whose cathedral the first Indians had been baptized.

### THE EFFECT OF THE IMAGE

The Virgin of Guadalupe brought new understanding to both the natives and the Spanish rulers. She chose to speak to an Aztec peasant, not to the bishop, and so granted the natives status within a Christian context.

To the Aztecs and Mayans, she clarified the position of Christianity. Before her appearance, they had happily converted, accepting Christian names and attending Mass while continuing their worship of the pre-Christian gods. But the image spoke to them with their own symbols, showing the lady surpassing their gods. They took this as a sign that they should abandon their old beliefs.

### GUADALUPE TODAY

From Juan Diego's personal devotions in a little village 456 years ago, the celebration of Guadalupe has grown and spread throughout the Americas.

"There are very few things we can bring over from our native land. Religion is one of them, but this feast is more than a religious event," said Dimas Moncada, coordinator of this year's celebration at St. Kevin's Church. "When we celebrate Guadalupe, we celebrate our ancestry."

## LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

by Dimas Moncada and Amy Love

El 13 de Diciembre la parroquia de St. Kevin celebrara la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Esta celebracion sera el fruto de mas de 10 meses de juntas y el esfuerzo de mas de 20 devotos.

La fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe es una celebracion que tiene un profundo significado religioso. Les preguntamos en la junta del mes pasado a los organizadores de esta fiesta sobre el significado que la Virgen guarda para ellos:

Los mas importante para Margarita Gomez es dar honor y gracias a la Madre de nuestra fe.

"Ella se fija en los indios, uniendolos a los Espanoles en una misma fe," dijo Irma de la Rosa.

"La Virgen de Guadalupe les quito los dioses paganos y les dio el Dios Verdadero a los Indios," anadio Irma Moncada.

"Si. Coma una Madre con ternura y amor vino a salvarnos," dijo en resumen Martha Cervantes.

"Ademas de ser una celebracion religiosa," Rodrigo Gomez nos recuerda, "esta fiesta es una tradicion de tiempos pasados."

"Fuera de nuestro pais, la Virgen es un simbolo de unidad para nosotros," dijo Enrique Estrada. Para él este unidad se ve en especial entre la familia Mexicana.

La importancia de esta celebracion es reconocida por todas las Americas, porque como nos dice Maria Moncada, "La Virgen de Guadalupe es la Reina de las Americas."

Asi mismo todos estan cordialmente invitados a celebrar la fiesta Guadalupeana el la Iglesia de St. Kevin el Domingo 13 de Diciembre. Habra una procesion de las calles Anderson y Ogden comenzando a las 12 p.m. seguida por una misa con mariachi en la iglesia. Se servira comida Mexicana el el salon parroquial a la 1:30 por el precio de \$3.50 por adulto y \$1.50 por nino.

*The public is invited to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 13 at St. Kevin's. Mariachis and worshipers in native costumes will begin the ceremonies with a procession leaving from Anderson and Ogden at noon, arriving at the church for 12:30 Mass. Afterward, starting around 1:30, lunch will be available priced at \$3.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children. Mealtime entertainment will include mariachi music and the traditional dancing of Ballet Folklorico.*

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# An historic visit

by Monica Conrady

Just a few months have passed since Pope John Paul II's historic visit to this country and his all too brief stay in San Francisco. But for 211 parishioners from St. Kevin's Catholic Church who attended the Mass at Candlestick Park, September 18 is a date they'll never forget.

It meant getting up at 4:30 a.m. and going out in the cold and dark. Nobody seemed to mind. People gathered in the parish hall, laden with blankets, umbrellas, and thermoses of hot coffee. Father James O'Malley was there to greet them, along with Fathers Gabriel Mision and John Murray. Sister Janet, Sister Anita Kelley, and Mrs. Barbara Audet gave out vouchers and organized the transport. It was 6 a.m. when the last of the three Muni buses jammed with people pulled away from St. Kevin's and lumbered down Cortland Avenue.

Candlestick Park had been transformed overnight into an open-air cathedral. The section reserved for St. Kevin's was a good one directly facing the altar. The mood was exuberant and joyful as everyone waited for Il Papa to arrive. The pre-mass celebration reflected the Bay Area's ethnic diversity, with Irish, Philipino, Chinese, Mexican, and African dances. When the Popemobile suddenly came into view and started to slowly circle the arena the crowd went wild. Thousands of yellow flags waved madly as everyone chanted, "John Paul II, we love you."

Yes, it would be wonderful to go to Rome and see the Pope in St. Peter's Square, but to have seen him here, on our own turf, in the City of St. Francis, was something very special indeed. Everyone at St. Kevin's would go along with that.

## Smile!

Hey! Got an old camera sittin' in your closet? We sure could use it here at the Bernal Journal Youth Project to help teach young people photography. Please call Barbara at 648-0330 if you can help.

# Supe du Jour

Reviving a past Bernal Journal custom, "Supe du Jour" will again be a regular feature. We will pose one or two questions to a different SF city supervisor each issue.



Bill Maher

**QUESTION:** Can you explain "downzoning" and your new piece of legislation?

**ANSWER:** The building boom that spurred passage of a 24' height limit in the Sunset and Richmond areas is affecting Bernal Heights as well. It is clear that we must protect this hill from out of scale and out of character development now, or lose the special neighborhood quality that brought us to Bernal Heights. This area is predominately single family, one and two story homes; we have narrow streets and a limited sewer capacity. Large, multi-unit homes with little or no off-street parking are not appropriate here. Zoning for the area should reflect our concerns and our interest in maintaining the density and character of homes that do exist. Toward that end, I have sponsored zoning legislation to reduce the size of buildings that can be constructed.

The legislation establishing a Special Use District includes the area of Bernal Heights bounded by James Lick, Southern Freeway, Army Street and Mission Street. In this area, the following controls will apply: 'RH-II buildings will be zoned RH-I; RH-I units will be no higher than 30', measured in conformity with lot slope, from the center of the lot; gross floor area is not to exceed 2000 square feet, not including garage space; 55% maximum lot coverage (down from 75% for RH-I); one off-street parking space must be provided for each 1000 square feet of construction. In addition, consideration will be given to the 1979 Residential Design Guidelines in the project approval process.

Apologies to our contributors (Sister Janet, Fred Allingham, Sally McMullen, Bob Dutra, Cathy and Vivian at the Library...) whose articles and photos had to be cut due to the onslaught of ads. Hold on till February!

Thank you, Josephine Minsky, for your contribution!



"Child Running", a 1939 photograph by Harold Edgerton, is included in STOPPING MOTION, an exhibition of the internationally acclaimed stop-action photographs of Edgerton, the scientist and artist who is the father of stroboscopic photography. The exhibit also includes more than twenty hands-on exhibits and activities on stroboscopic illumination. Now through January 3 at the Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street, phone 563-7337.



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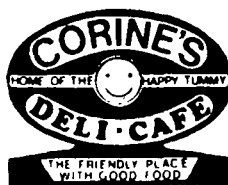
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*This is a story by Mary Foy's granddaughter. Miracle was a third-grader when she penned (penciled?) this.*

#### THE NINTH WINTER CELEBRATION OF CRAFTSWOMEN

130 craftswomen will sell their original wares, plus there will be food and entertainment at the Ninth Winter Celebration of Craftswomen, presented by the San Francisco Women's Building, on the weekends of December 12-13 and 19-20 at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, 431-1180.

#### HOME

by Hildegard Corona

The logs were piled high on a hearth big and wide  
For then it was evening, and the family inside  
Were gathering together to sit and enjoy  
A warm fire.

Mother was knitting a sweater for Dad -  
While Grandpa sat comfortably looking so glad  
He'd chose the big wicker, while he puffed on his pipe  
By the fire.

The children were spread on the floor all around  
As they gazed at the fire they seemed quite  
spellbound;  
For their eyes were now staring at spectacular scenes  
In the fire.

I can't help remembering those cold winter nights  
When tucked in my warm bed away from the lights,  
Away from the room where we all had felt warmth  
Near that fire.

For I had been one of those children, you know,  
Who sat by the fire and felt its warm glow.  
Oh, the memories I have of those years will not ever  
Expire!

#### YOU AND YOUR AGING RELATIVES

A seven-week educational support series for adults concerned about an older family member, will be offered Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish Hall (62 Santa Rosa), beginning January 26, 1988. Space is limited so please call 864-7400 as soon as possible to register. Sponsored by Catholic Charities.



#### ¡Una estrella especial!

Carmen Morales, a dedicated volunteer at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Senior Program, is featured in a film about women growing old.

Through the struggles and triumphs of Carmen and five other women in their sixties and seventies, *ACTING OUR AGE* tackles subjects which are often taboo: changing body image, sexuality, the reality of family life, money, and death. Their lives and insights reveal the ways our culture devalues older women as well as their often invisible strength, passion, and vision.

*ACTING OUR AGE* premiered in November at the Palace of Fine Arts.

#### THE GARDENER

by Gloria Jewel Leitner

I cannot push the future:  
I can only spread the seeds,  
And carefully tend the soil -  
For the seasons start and end  
Of their own accord.  
And a harvest before  
The time is ripe  
Will yield a few small fruit;  
But a hurried crop  
Will satiate  
Neither the palate,  
Nor the soul.

<Reprinted with permission from  
Full Moon, Silver GLimpes >.

PROFILES... (Continued from page 3)

Georgia believes in keeping her word. "Anything I say I'll do, I do it". She works for improvements for the poor and the jobless, especially young people. She has strong feelings about needed improvements in the Alemany Public Housing Project, where she lives. Alemany is on the southern edge of Bernal Heights, at the foot of Ellsworth Street, next to Route 280. Georgia says, "Alemany needs more lights. It's too dark, and the lack of light lends itself to crime. We need to have the buildings painted. It looks bad to passersby on the freeway, and to the tenants. The garbage dumpsters need to be removed from in front of the residences, where they breed rats and flies. We need plumbing improvements, and an end to sewage back-ups. And most of all, we need more activities for youth—especially school age youth. We need better use of the rec center here, and more outings for the kids."

Georgia also wants to see the polling booth for her precinct moved closer to Alemany. At present, it's at the top of a steep hill and over a half mile away, on Moultrie Street near Crescent. She would also like to see all of Alemany in one precinct.

*Olivia and Georgia are working to improve youth activities on the Hill, along with Fred Allingham, Executive Director of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, Buck Bagot, a volunteer with the BHCF, and representatives from the St. Kevin's Youth Program. If you are interested in helping, call Fred at 648-0330, or Buck at 695-0424.*

#### Treat for Alemany Kids

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and the Housing Authority are cosponsoring a Performing Arts Series for children who live in public housing developments and surrounding areas. The free performance for Alemany neighbors will be held Wednesday, December 9, 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Recreation Center, Murray St. and Justin Drive.

Underwritten by the Housing Authority, entertainment includes Willie Claflin, Master Puppeteer and "Friends"; Gary Lapow Inventive Songs for Children; Jose Luis Orozco, Music of the Americas; Puppetwork, the Magic of Puppetry; Nancy Raven, Musician-Children's Folk Songs of the World.

For more information call Diane Palacio at 558-4268.

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# Family Fun!

If you're looking for a quiet place to work, avoid the Bernal Library from 7 to 8 on Wednesday evenings. That's when the library experiences "The Invasion of the Families." Children of all ages and their parents flock to Bernal Branch on Wednesday nights for Family Storytime presented by the dynamic Children's Librarian and storyteller extraordinaire, Vivian Sykes. Programs range from craft-making to films to storytelling. Occasionally, Family Storytime features guest entertainers. On October 28 a special Halloween program featured magician Chris Abbe. Chris entertained a crowd of 200 witches, ghosts, fairies, and ghostbusters with amazing feats of magic. Everybody had a great time.

The Family Storytime schedule for December and January:

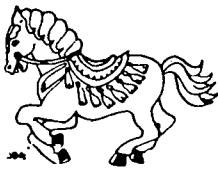
Dec. 9 - Crafts  
Dec. 16 - Films: Butterfly Ball, Frederick, Hailstones Halibut Bones, A Pocket for Courdory  
Dec. 23 - Holiday stories  
Dec. 30 - Stories  
Jan. 6 - Stories  
Jan. 13 - Stories/Dragon Festival  
Jan. 20 - Dragon crafts  
Jan. 27 - Films: One Monday Morning, Red Carpet, Rosie's Walk, A Snowy Day, Stone Cutter

Family Storytime is an important opportunity for families to enjoy the library together, and to meet and talk with neighbors and friends. Library services are provided for adults as well as children on those evenings. Come and join in the fun. It's always free!

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- Infant/Toddler Lapsits—Tuesday mornings at 11:15
- Preschool Storytime—Tuesday mornings at 10:30
- Reference Services—We'll find the answer to your question from our collection or will pass the question on to the Reference Referral Center.

HEAD START... (Continued from page 1)

feel very unsure of the status of our programs. The Policy Council feels that the federal government has a responsibility to straighten things out."

Carolyn Mangrum, ACYF Head Start Bureau Chief, wishes to clarify what she considers to be misleading information. "This (threatened closure) was not an ACYF decision to make. In August, CHRI submitted an application for funding without Policy Council approval, which is required by federal regulations." ACYF granted the thirty-day extension for the Policy Council and CHRI to work out their differences. Mangrum stated that it would take only thirty days—not several months—to find a replacement agency. But she doesn't think this will be necessary. "We trust that the two groups can work things out."

Miranda is wary of any agreement. "CHRI has been making promises all along that they'd straighten things out, and look what we've come to. We still feel that things are very much up in the air."

Concerned parents and teachers urge readers to express your concerns about the closing of Head Start by writing to: Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 and Jerry Gomez, Program Specialist, ACYF, 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102.

## St. Kevin's Bingo Every Wednesday Night

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11

Jessica Murray's

## Astro-rap

Astorap

It's Sagittarius!  
Time to jump off the high dive.  
Visit the racetrack.  
Fly to the Yucatan.

Every year around the 22nd of November people feel the urge to break free from their various ruts.

The previous four weeks of solar Scorpio have kept us riveted upon our emotional obsessions and darkest psychological secrets. Sagittarius is a flaming arrow shooting up out of the swamp of self-absorption. We now feel like getting out of ourselves, out into the great outdoors, embarking on grand projects.

Do you feel more wanderlust at this time of year? Even if you have no Sagittarius in your birthchart you may pick up the restlessness in the air. The mood is upbeat and enthusiastic. It is easier during these four weeks to become inspired by a new idea or swept away by a reckless plan. Everybody feels like a teenager.

People with a lot of Sagittarius in their charts are not, as a rule, big on commitment. They are adventurers, gypsies, cowboys! Their vision outstrips the confines of the familiar. Like the galloping horse that is one of Sagittarius's symbols, this sign jumps over fences wherever it finds them. Unless other factors in the chart counterindicate it, Sagittarians are neither monotonous nor monogamous.

Idealistic and high-minded, Sagittarians love to talk philosophy. They may be religious or they may be religiously anti-religious, but their beliefs are passionate one way or another. Depending on their level of self-awareness, Sagittarians may be either self-righteously opinionated or wise with a broad, universal perspective. Either way, their ideology is not just a pocketful of slogans: Sagittarius means it from the heart.

It is the fire of belief that fuels great Sagittarian teachers and preachers. They are fired up by their version of the Truth and want you to catch the contagion. So great is their desire to make you see things the way they do that the details may get lost in the process. The important thing for these people in the Principle of the Thing. Do not interrupt your Sagittarian friend with requests for facts and figures when she is waxing eloquent. She will feel you are being trivial.

Allow your world view to broaden during these few weeks. Until the 22nd of December you may feel like shopping more extravagantly, speaking with more exaggeration, and jacking up your career ambitions to giddy new heights. Ruled by Jupiter, the planet of expansion, Sagittarius gives people the hunger to take in more of the outer world than they usually feel up to.

Could this be why we eat so much at Thanksgiving?



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*"Best food in town!"*

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